

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 8-11 are now presented for examination. Claims 1, 5 and 8-11 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 4 and 7 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 10 are the only independent claims.

The PTO-1449 filed with the initial application papers was not initialed and returned with the Office Action. It is requested that the initialed form be returned with the next Office Action. For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of that PTO-1449 form is submitted herewith.

The drawings were objected to as failing to show the feature of claim 7 relating to the window at a prescribed portion of the case. As shown above, claim 7 was cancelled without prejudice, making the rejection moot.

Claims 1-3, 6 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,252,690 (Laine). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Laine in view of U.S. Patent 6,411,414 (Abate et al.). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Laine in view of U.S. Patent 5,726,786 (Heflinger). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Laine in view of U.S. Patent 6,281,999 (Watson). Claims 8, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Laine in view of U.S. Patent 6,304,357 (Ohhata et al.) Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 10 are patentable for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to an optical data bus communication system of an artificial satellite. The system comprises: a plurality of first devices, each of which is equipped with an optical transmitter each transmitter transmitting signals of a differing wavelength; a reflection means that is provided on the entire inner surface of, or at prescribed locations inside, the case of the artificial satellite; and a plurality of second devices, each of which is equipped with an

optical receiver that receives optical signals that are transmitted from the optical transmitters both directly and after reflection and diffusing by the reflection means, each receiver receiving optical signals of a different wavelength and reproducing the optical signals from these received signals.

A feature of claim 1 neither taught or suggested in the cited art is the feature by which each transmitter transmits signals of a different wavelength, and each receiver receives optical signals of a different wavelength. In the Office Action, it was conceded, in the discussion of now-cancelled claim 4, that this feature is not taught in Laine. The Office Action relied upon Abate et al. to supply this feature.

Laine is directed to a satellite onboard data transmission system using senders and receivers interconnected by non-directional infra-red links. In the Background section of Laine, it is explained how laser based technologies for use in a satellite are highly disadvantageous due to highly directional nature and the requirement of precise adjustment of the senders/receivers made necessary by this feature of lasers. Thus, not only is Laine directed to the use of non-directional infra-red links, and not lasers, but it teaches away from the use of lasers. See col. 2, lines 1-28.

Abate is directed to a wavelength division multiplexing wireless optical link that uses lasers for communication. Abate uses the outputs of erbium-doped fiber amplifiers and provides for increased bandwidth by sending information in multiple wavelengths, rather than the single wavelength of prior optical telescopes. Col. 2, lines 45-55 and col. 4, lines 37-49.

The combination of Laine and Abate is improper at least because Laine, as mentioned above, clearly teaches away from the use of lasers. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been dissuaded from looking to Abate, which is directed to the particular problems of lasers, for any teaching with which to modify Laine. For at least this reason, no prima facie case of obviousness is made out with regard to the feature of now-cancelled claim

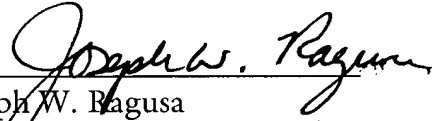
4, currently recited in amended claim 1. Claim 10 recites a similar feature and is believed patentable for substantially similar reasons.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests.

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Respectfully submitted,

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